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FOR ACTION

UNICEF FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY

By its decision 1995/11 (E/ICEF/1995/9 (Part II)), adopted at its second regular session of 1995, the Executive Board took note of document E/ICEF/1995/12 and Corr.1 on UNICEF follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which was held in Cairo in September 1994. The decision also requested the secretariat to submit a revised paper at its third regular session of 1995, taking into account Board member comments (see E/ICEF/1995/9 (Part II), paragraphs 110-117).

The present report identifies priority areas for UNICEF in the follow-up to ICPD and implementation of its Programme of Action. It reflects the "Report of the International Conference on Population and Development" (A/CONF.171/13), follows a process of consultation with UNICEF partners and responds, as requested, to guidance provided by the Board.

UNICEF welcomes the holistic vision of ICPD and is fully committed to play its part in the follow-up to the conference. The central message of ICPD - that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development - is a central theme of UNICEF-supported programmes of assistance. ICPD has helped to renew commitment to development goals for children and women and provides an unprecedented framework for all people to seek and enhance their health and well-being.

In its follow-up to ICPD, UNICEF will pursue close collaboration with partners in a variety of sectors, with a particular focus on girls' education; women's empowerment; primary health care, including reproductive health; and tracking progress in reducing child and maternal mortality. In addition to collaboration at the country-level, UNICEF has participated actively in the five working groups of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and, at the request of the United Nations Population Fund, is the lead agency for the working group on "A Common Approach to Building National Capacity in Tracking Child and Maternal Mortality".

* E/ICEF/1995/20.

In its commitment to contribute to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, UNICEF will continue its strong advocacy in support of child protection, survival and development, and particularly reducing gender disparities between girls and boys. It will increase its support to country-level action in the areas of girls' education, adolescent health, women's health and women's empowerment. UNICEF will emphasize cooperation and collaboration with its United Nations partners so that more rapid progress can be made for children, adolescents and women.

A draft recommendation on UNICEF follow-up to ICPD for Executive Board approval is contained in paragraph 30.

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	4
I. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT TO UNICEF	3 - 5	4
II. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT	6 - 14	5
III. THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND UNICEF PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES	15 - 28	7
A. Girls' education	16 - 17	7
B. Women's empowerment	18 - 19	7
C. Primary health care and child survival	20 - 21	8
D. Reproductive health	22 - 24	9
E. Tracking progress in child and maternal mortality	25 - 26	10
F. Other areas of concern	27 - 28	10
IV. SETTING PRIORITIES	29	11
V. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION	30	11

INTRODUCTION

1. Since the World Summit for Children in 1990, a series of historic United Nations-sponsored global conferences has elevated social development, particularly the needs and rights of the most vulnerable populations in societies, to the forefront of international concerns. Building on the outcomes of each of those historic conferences, the present report discusses UNICEF involvement in follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in September 1994. It reflects the "Report of the International Conference on Population and Development" (A/CONF.171/13) and builds on policy review papers submitted to the Executive Board on basic education (E/ICEF/1995/16); UNICEF health strategy (E/ICEF/1995/11/Rev.1); safe motherhood (E/ICEF/1990/L.13); family planning (E/ICEF/1993/L.5); the prevention of HIV/AIDS (E/ICEF/1992/L.11); gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (E/ICEF/1994/L.5 and Add.1); and children, environment and sustainable development, the UNICEF response to Agenda 21 (E/ICEF/1993/L.2). It also builds on the 1992 report on collaboration between UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (E/ICEF/1992/L.13) and the recent paper on UNICEF follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (E/ICEF/1995/19).

2. The outcomes of ICPD are part of an ongoing process of international action on social development. Since the beginning of the decade, the world's leaders, at a series of global forums, have committed themselves to protecting children, the environment and human rights; improving the quality of people's lives through sustainable development; and alleviating poverty. Throughout, a global consensus has been building that only by advancing women's full and equal participation in all spheres of life will human development objectives be achieved; that while women will always play a critical role in the development of their families, they must also increasingly become leaders and full partners in the development of their communities and nations; and that while advancements in women's economic and political status and improvements in their education and health are each important ends in themselves, it is the mutual reinforcement of these achievements that will accelerate sustainable social change. If the world is to seize this historic opportunity to accelerate social, economic and political development for all people, immediate actions must be taken to meet the basic needs and protect the rights of women and girls.

I. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT TO UNICEF

3. UNICEF welcomes the holistic vision of ICPD and is fully committed to play its part in the follow-up to the conference. The central message of ICPD - that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development - is a central theme of UNICEF-supported programmes of assistance and advocacy. The ICPD Programme of Action reaffirms the commitments made at the World Summit for Children and the rights contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. It provides an unprecedented framework for all people to enhance their health and well-being.

4. UNICEF is committed to the principles of ICPD that emphasize the development and protection of children; the right to basic education; the empowerment of girls and women; the family as the basic unit in society; universal access to basic health care services; and the right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children. UNICEF will emphasize those principles in its own advocacy and programme support, consistent with its mandate and comparative advantage.

5. The ICPD approach to development creates new opportunities and demands for partnership, collaboration and coordination within the United Nations family and between the United Nations and other actors at national and international

levels. Accordingly, UNICEF efforts will be pursued in close collaboration with its United Nations, multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners.

II. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ON FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

6. UNFPA serves as the focal point for coordination of ICPD follow-up. UNICEF collaborates fully in these efforts in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/128 (19 December 1994), which invites agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen and adjust their programmes to take into account ICPD follow-up. UNICEF efforts are complementary to the UNFPA programme approach, as described in the UNFPA Executive Board report, "Programme priorities and future directions of UNFPA in light of the International Conference on Population and Development" (DP/1995/25).

7. UNICEF has participated actively in the five working groups of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. This effort seeks to assure a coordinated approach, with a focus on country-level cooperation. As part of the Task Force activities in all five areas, UNICEF will contribute to the development of operational guidelines for use by resident coordinators to facilitate system-wide collaboration in the design, implementation and monitoring of country-level activities. UNICEF has established an internal ICPD follow-up task force to coordinate its efforts in the various sectors and will continue to contribute to the Inter-Agency Task Force. At the request of UNFPA, UNICEF is the lead agency for the working group on "A Common Approach to Building National Capacity in Tracking Child and Maternal Mortality". The working group has now completed a set of draft guidelines for United Nations resident coordinators.

8. In the education sector, UNICEF involvement in following up the education goals of ICPD will be through (a) the ICPD working group on Basic Education; (b) the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education; (c) the Education for All forum; and (d) Donors to African Education. UNICEF will continue to be active in those forums to promote girls' education, improve access to and the quality of primary education and monitor progress.

9. In the area of women's empowerment, UNICEF is participating in inter-agency efforts, particularly through the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP), to develop indicators for the assessment of women's participation and empowerment, the integration of gender issues from the life-cycle perspective into national development policies and programmes, and the publication of "World's Women". UNICEF will continue to play an active role in the Fourth World Conference on Women and its follow-up processes.

10. In the health sector, UNICEF will continue to work closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNFPA, the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS) and non-governmental partners in strengthening global approaches to child, youth and women's health. Active participation will continue in inter-agency coordination mechanisms, including the Task Force for Child Survival and Development, the Inter-agency Working Group on Safe Motherhood and the Inter-agency Collaboration to Reduce Maternal Death and Disabilities. As one of its six co-sponsoring agencies, UNICEF will collaborate closely with UNAIDS at global and country levels, contributing specifically to work in the prevention of HIV transmission among adolescents and in the development of programming approaches to assist communities and families affected by HIV/AIDS.

11. In the area of training, efforts will be undertaken to help UNICEF country offices become more efficient in ICPD-related programming interventions. UNICEF staff awareness on ICPD issues will be addressed to help staff integrate

strategies into future programmes and to improve coordination with other agencies. Existing forums for inter-agency collaboration, including JCGP, will serve as vehicles to develop and disseminate training materials for inter-agency use at the country level. Such materials already exist for HIV/AIDS, the prevention of sexual harassment and other subject areas. The development of an inter-agency United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/WHO/UNFPA/UNICEF training module for safe motherhood is well under way. UNICEF will collaborate with the JCGP sub-group on training to develop the additional training materials necessary for effective United Nations follow-up to ICPD.

12. At the field level, UNICEF offices will collaborate with other United Nations agencies, through the United Nations resident coordinator system, to support Governments and strengthen partnerships with NGOs to ensure coordinated follow-up to ICPD. UNICEF will emphasize those areas in which it has comparative expertise and advantage, particularly advocacy, information, education and communication (IEC), and community-based programmes. Such efforts will be a part of the proposed broader process of conference follow-up as described in the working paper on "An integrated UN-wide approach to providing development assistance to the follow-up to major UN conferences", that was circulated at the Senior Officials meeting held on 1 and 2 June 1995. The proposal calls on the United Nations system to assist national authorities in the formulation of national strategies for social development, including the collection and dissemination of indicators and statistics. The adoption of such an approach will allow United Nations agencies to work more effectively with each other and their partners in assisting countries to achieve conference goals.

13. A number of lessons of relevance to ICPD follow-up can be derived from UNICEF experience in following up the World Summit for Children, central of which is the need for at least one United Nations agency with field staff to ensure that follow-up is a priority in its subsequent activities. World Summit for Children follow-up was put at the top of the UNICEF agenda by its Executive Board and its Executive Director, resulting in country-level programming support and monitoring systems, high-level technical meetings at global and regional levels, and global advocacy. Country-level World Summit follow-up has been based on five principal points of action, as stated in the Declaration and Plan of Action:

(a) Country adoption and adaptation of the 7 major goals and 20 supporting goals agreed to at the World Summit for Children and the subsequent mid-decade goals;

(b) Preparation of national programmes of action (NPAs) by Governments;

(c) Mobilization of governmental and non-governmental groups for implementation;

(d) Resource mobilization, particularly reallocating existing resources through setting clearer priorities and achieving cost reductions;

(e) Monitoring, both to ensure progress and course corrections and to mobilize and sustain popular and political interest.

14. ICPD follow-up provides an opportunity to build on and expand the NPAs that were developed for the World Summit for Children to incorporate ICPD goals.

III. THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND UNICEF PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES

15. UNICEF follow-up to ICPD will focus on promoting the survival and development of children and women by strengthening its programme support in four principal areas: (a) girls' education; (b) women's and girls' empowerment; (c) primary health care (PHC), including reproductive health; and (d) tracking child and maternal mortality.

A. Girls' education

16. ICPD highlighted the key role of education, in particular the education of girls and women, in sustainable development, advancing women's status and improving the health and nutrition status of the family. The Programme of Action urges countries to achieve both quantitative and qualitative education goals with a reduction of gender disparity. It calls on countries to "strive to ensure the complete access to primary school or an equivalent level to both girls and boys as quickly as possible." 1/ Countries are encouraged to take affirmative steps to keep girls and adolescents in school by building community schools, training teachers to be gender-sensitive and providing financial and other incentives. Access to education beyond primary and vocational training are also to be ensured for girls and women.

17. The UNICEF strategy paper on basic education (E/ICEF/1995/16) describes UNICEF policies, strategies and actions in basic education that are in harmony with the education objectives of ICPD. UNICEF strongly and explicitly advocates affirmative action in favour of girls' education. Its country programmes strive to integrate girls into the formal education system by making it more responsive to girls' special needs and concerns. The training of female teachers and administrators; gender sensitization of textbooks, curricula and teacher-training materials; mobilizing parents and communities to become involved in the education of girls; and sensitization of the civil society about the benefits of girls' education will be important parts of UNICEF follow-up to ICPD. Promoting public policies which encourage girls to remain in school, including when they are pregnant or parenting, will be a strengthened element of UNICEF advocacy. UNICEF also supports non-formal education programmes of equivalent quality to formal schools. While most of the activities are at the country level, regional offices provide technical support in training, curriculum development, collection of gender disaggregated data and monitoring progress. At the global level, the development of policies and strategies, and global advocacy for them, as well as mobilizing resources for girls' education, have and will continue to be part of UNICEF follow-up activities, in close collaboration with UNESCO and other organizations.

B. Women's empowerment

18. The ICPD Programme of Action stresses the importance of the empowerment of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status. It urges the elimination of gender-based discrimination throughout the life cycle, with particular emphasis on improving the health, nutrition and education of girls and young women. The Programme of Action calls on countries to (a) protect the rights of women through national law and international conventions; (b) ensure women's access to education, employment and PHC, including reproductive health; (c) eliminate all forms of exploitation, abuse and violence against girls and women; (d) promote women's equal participation in all levels of the political process; and (e) encourage the expansion of community-based women's organizations. Within the context of the empowerment of

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1/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, (A/CONF.171/13), 18 October 1994, p. 80, para. 11.6.

women, ICPD has placed significant emphasis on the importance of men's shared responsibilities for their sexual and reproductive behaviour and their roles in family and community life.

19. The UNICEF policy on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (E/ICEF/1993/L.5 and Add.1) is complementary to the principles, objectives and actions described in the ICPD Programme of Action. UNICEF is committed to the integration and strengthening of women's empowerment approaches into its programmes of support and to the elimination of gender disparities in the achievement of the World Summit for Children goals. It plays an important role in promoting actions to eliminate discrimination against girls, especially in its advocacy and community-based IEC programming. An operational framework - the Women's Equality and Empowerment Framework - has been developed by UNICEF to accelerate women's participation in health, education, and water and sanitation programming. At the country level, UNICEF will continue to advocate for and support the development and implementation of gender-sensitive national policies and programmes, with particular attention to girls. Training activities to strengthen gender-analysis capacities at national and community levels will be supported. UNICEF will increase its advocacy and IEC efforts to promote the health and development of girls and young women, particularly in the areas of eliminating harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation and early marriage, and in preventing sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and adolescent pregnancy.

C. Primary health care and child survival

20. PHC and child survival are important elements of the ICPD Programme of Action, which specifically urges national commitments to ensure access to basic health care for all, to promote child survival, health and nutrition, and to promote breast-feeding as a child survival strategy. Particular emphasis is placed on achievement of the World Summit for Children health goals, the need for strengthening and reforming the health sector, and the importance of community participation in the planning, financing and management of health services. The Programme of Action highlights the need to address the underlying causes of high infant and child mortality and the linkages between child survival and the reproductive health of mothers, especially adolescent mothers. IEC efforts are encouraged to enable people to increase their control over and improve their health, to better inform parents about child care and to promote breast-feeding.

21. As described in the report on the health strategy for UNICEF (E/ICEF/1995/11/Rev.1), and within the framework of health policies and strategies adopted by the World Health Assembly, UNICEF programmes of assistance within the health sector focus on reducing infant, child and maternal mortality through interventions in health promotion, essential health services and monitoring. UNICEF efforts in health promotion focus on (a) promoting healthy public policy; (b) assuring access to essential health information; (c) developing individual skills required to protect and promote health; (d) creating a supportive environment through peers, family and the media; and (e) reorienting health services to enhance their health promotion function. Essential health services are being strengthened through UNICEF support to improving the functioning and outreach capacity of basic health units through training and community mobilization; advocating for the effective delivery of maternal and child health (MCH) referral services at the district level, with particular attention to essential obstetric care; and promoting national policies that contribute to the achievement of universal access to essential services. Emphasis in health monitoring is placed on processes that strengthen household-level monitoring of MCH, strengthen linkages between health workers and the community, and focus political and technical attention on the health status of the most vulnerable groups at district and national levels.

D. Reproductive health

22. Throughout the ICPD Programme of Action there is an emphasis on the critical importance of reproductive health, defined as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. 2/ This includes safe motherhood, family planning, the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other STDs, and adolescent reproductive health. The Programme of Action affirms that reproductive health care programmes (a) should be designed to serve the needs of women and adolescents; (b) must involve them in the planning and management of services; and (c) must respect the dignity of all persons. It calls on countries to prevent and reduce the incidence of and provide treatment for STDs, including HIV/AIDS, by integrating efforts into PHC and family planning services. The Programme of Action urges the responsible exercise of reproductive rights. "These rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. It also includes their right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence, as expressed in human rights documents." 3/ The Programme of Action devotes particular attention to the reproductive health of adolescents. It calls on countries to protect and promote the rights of adolescents to reproductive health education, information and care and to greatly reduce the number of adolescent pregnancies, recognizing the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents.

23. UNICEF has been active in developing appropriate strategies and programming interventions in safe motherhood, family planning and the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other STDs. UNICEF support to women's health activities emphasizes working with women's organizations at the community level. It focuses on promoting linkages with the health sector, assisting women's organizations in implementing IEC efforts and in developing financing mechanisms for purchasing health care. IEC activities include planning for safe delivery by women and their families, promoting behaviour that encourages people to seek health care and advocating the promotion of responsible planning of family size and the spacing of births. UNICEF programmes of assistance also will include support to national-level mobilization on safe delivery. National commissions or task forces on safe delivery will serve to monitor progress towards reducing maternal mortality, rationalize medical practices and mobilize political and community commitment to women's health. In close collaboration with WHO, UNICEF support is provided to strengthen essential obstetric care services and the referral of women with complications in pregnancy and delivery, including the life-threatening complications of unsafe abortions. Increasing emphasis will be placed on the role of nurses and midwives, specific training in life-saving skills, maternal and newborn care, prenatal and post-natal counselling, diagnosis and treatment of reproductive tract infections, and family planning. Efforts with traditional birth attendants will emphasize their roles in health promotion, referral to nurses/midwives and other skilled obstetric care providers, and in the planning of safe deliveries.

24. UNICEF efforts in the area of adolescent health seek to build stronger dialogue and partnerships among young people, parents, educators, health providers and community leaders on health, including reproductive health. They also seek to help assure that adolescents have access to the information, skills and services they need to protect and promote their own health, and eventually

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2/ Ibid., p. 43, para. 7.2.

3/ Ibid., p. 43, para. 7.3.

the health of their children. UNICEF supports school health programmes that stress skills-based health education, including reproductive health education, health and nutrition services, water and sanitation on school premises, and extracurricular activities which promote the health of school-age children. Working closely with parents and community organizations, increasing emphasis will be placed on expanding adolescents' access to and utilization of quality health care and counselling services. UNICEF will work with Governments and NGOs to support increased outreach to vulnerable adolescents, the training of health workers in adolescent health and the strengthening of linkages between the health sector and NGOs. The health needs of girls and young women, specifically preventing early and unwanted pregnancy, eliminating harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, and nutrition are becoming an increasingly important part of UNICEF efforts. IEC efforts with boys and young men will focus on healthy practices, including responsible sexual behaviour. UNICEF support to youth NGOs will focus on strengthening their capacity to promote health, including meeting the needs of vulnerable adolescents and providing information, referral and counselling services.

E. Tracking progress in child and maternal mortality

25. The ICPD Programme of Action emphasizes the importance of reliable, timely and internationally comparable data to serve as a basis for policy and programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. It also recognizes that significant gaps remain in the quality and coverage of available information. The Programme of Action calls for Governments of all countries, especially developing countries, to strengthen their data systems. Particular attention should be given to the monitoring of progress towards the ICPD goals, as well as the monitoring of population trends. It calls for the promotion of interaction between data users and data providers and places importance on improving the dissemination and use of research findings.

26. In response to the ICPD Programme of Action recommendations, UNICEF is building on its ongoing work with other United Nations agencies in assisting countries to strengthen their capacity to monitor progress towards the World Summit for Children goals and, thus, better track progress towards the ICPD goals. Most recently, UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO, UNFPA, UNESCO, the United Nations Statistical Division and regional centres of excellence, has been helping countries to build a statistical base for reporting progress towards specific goals at mid-decade. A key objective in monitoring has been to bring together the users and producers of data and to ensure that policy makers have access to understandable and current information with which to make decisions for programme and policy formulation, development and implementation. This has been a particular concern of UNICEF in tracking child mortality levels. In maternal mortality, particular emphasis is being placed on strengthening data systems to measure mortality and on process indicators.

F. Other areas of concern

27. ICPD has highlighted additional areas critical to UNICEF work on behalf of children and women, including the needs of children in especially difficult circumstances (CEDC), children and women in emergency and refugee situations, environmental concerns and the central role of the family in society. In their efforts to promote the protection, survival and development of children and youth, the Programme of Action urges countries to address the neglect, exploitation and abuse of children and youth, particularly street children, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The specific needs of refugee and displaced women and children also have been emphasized by the ICPD Programme of Action, especially their needs for adequate health, education and social services. ICPD reaffirmed environmental commitments made in Agenda 21, stressing the linkages between meeting basic human needs and a healthy environment.

28. UNICEF is working actively in these important areas, and ICPD has provided further impetus and guidance on strengthening and expanding these efforts. CEDC activities will continue to be based on the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and will be linked more closely to health efforts, particularly in the prevention of HIV/AIDS, sexual exploitation, substance use and violence. CEDC efforts also will be linked with basic education programmes for out-of school youth and women. The overall health and nutrition needs of children and women in emergencies and refugee populations also will receive the increased attention of UNICEF-supported programmes. Primary environmental care, water and sanitation will continue to be UNICEF priorities, with an emphasis on capacity-building for community empowerment to improve water management and household water security. UNICEF recognizes that many of the most important decisions affecting the health and education of children and the status of girls and women take place within families. The importance of addressing men and their role in these decision-making processes will receive increased attention in UNICEF advocacy and programming.

IV. SETTING PRIORITIES

29. Priority setting within UNICEF programmes of cooperation in the follow-up to ICPD will be derived from the country programming exercise and approach. While UNICEF advocacy will address the broad spectrum of issues described in the present paper, the scope of programme support in a given country will be more limited. This will depend on the comparative advantage of UNICEF vis-à-vis other partners in a particular country and the availability of resources. UNICEF will continue its strong advocacy in support of child protection, survival and development. It will increase its support to country-level action in the areas of girls' education, adolescent health, women's health and women's empowerment. Resource mobilization in support of such programmes of assistance will be emphasized, as will effective monitoring and evaluation. Finally, ICPD follow-up will help to revitalize United Nations collaboration and clarify the respective mandates and complementarity of each agency so that more rapid progress can be made for children, youth and women.

V. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

30. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board adopt the following draft recommendation on UNICEF follow-up to ICPD:

The Executive Board,

Reaffirming that UNICEF follow-up to ICPD should be consistent with policies in, inter alia, the policy review papers on basic education (E/ICEF/1995/16), UNICEF health strategy (E/ICEF/1995/11/Rev.1), gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (E/ICEF/1994/L.5 and Add.1), UNICEF involvement in family planning (E/ICEF/1993/L.5), safe motherhood (E/ICEF/1990/L.13), the prevention of HIV/AIDS (E/ICEF/1992/L.11), children, environment and sustainable development, the UNICEF response to Agenda 21 (E/ICEF/1993/L.2), the report on collaboration between UNICEF and UNFPA (E/ICEF/1992/L.13) and the medium-term plan for the period 1994-1997 (E/ICEF/1994/3 and Corr.1),

1. Endorses the framework for follow-up to ICPD as presented in document E/ICEF/1995/12/Rev.1;

2. Encourages UNICEF to continue:

(a) To strengthen its partnerships, coordination and collaboration with WHO, UNFPA, UNDP, UNESCO and other United Nations agencies and NGOs which are actively involved in ICPD follow-up, in accordance with their respective mandates;

(b) To place an emphasis on strengthening advocacy and programming to promote the education of girls and women, especially access to quality basic education and completion of primary education;

(c) To place an emphasis on strengthening advocacy and programming to promote the health of women, including their reproductive health, specifically prenatal and maternal care, essential obstetric care, family planning information and services, and the prevention and management of STDs, including HIV/AIDS;

(d) To place an emphasis on strengthening advocacy and programming to promote the health and development of adolescents through schools, PHC and youth organizations;

(e) To strengthen its strategies, advocacy and operational programming in the areas of women's and girls' empowerment, CEDC, children and women in emergencies, water supply and sanitation, the role of men in the family, and other cross-cutting themes to be supportive of the principles and priorities laid down in the ICPD Programme of Action.